

# Xavier Sabata

## Countertenor



“ Sabata has one of the richest of counter-tenor voices, his warmth of tone carrying intimations of decadence. A perceptive vocal actor, he gets to the essence of his protagonists... The beauty of Sabata's singing is breathtaking, however unsettling his characters...”  
**The Guardian**

Catalan countertenor **Xavier Sabata** trained as an actor at Barcelona's Institut del Teatre before studying singing at the Escola Superior de Musica Catalunya and at the Musikhochschule, Karlsruhe.

Opera productions have led him to the most distinguished opera houses worldwide including Teatro Real Madrid, Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona, Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris, Staatsoper Unter den Linden, Wiener Staatsoper, Theater an der Wien, Oper Frankfurt, Opera de Lyon, Teatro La Fenice in Venice and the Grand Théâtre de Genève.

On the opera stage this season Xavier takes on the title roles in Handel's **Orlando** for Oper Köln, **Giulio Cesare** for the Liceu, Barcelona and various roles in a new production titled *I Grotteschi* including music by Claudio Monteverdi from *L'Orfeo*, *Il ritorno d'Ulisse in patria* and *L'incoronazione di Poppea* at La Monnaie, which is directed by Rafael R. Villalobos and conducted by Leonardo García Alarcón.

Sabata's repertoire spans from Cavalli and Monteverdi and the heroes of baroque opera seria to contemporary works. Some recent roles have included **Bertarido** in Handel's *Rodelinda* with Claus Guth under Stefano Montanari at Opéra de Lyon, and also at Teatro Municipal de Santiago de Chile; **Ottone** in Monteverdi's *L'incoronazione di Poppea* under Diego Fasolis at Staatsoper Unter den Linden, at the Wiener Staatsoper in Jan Lauwers' production under Pablo Heras-Casado and at the Liceu in Barcelona in a production by Calixto Bieito under Jordi Savall; **Endimione La Calisto** directed by David Alden with Ivor Bolton at Teatro Real, Madrid; the world premiere of *L'enigma di Lea* at Gran Teatro del Liceu, Barcelona; title role in Handel **Rinaldo** at the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées and the title role in **Orlando** for the Perelada Festival.

He has appeared with such ensembles as Les Arts Florissants, Europa Galante, Collegium 1704, the Venice Baroque Orchestra, Basel Sinfonieorchestra and Il Pomo D'Oro and collaborates regularly with conductors such as Fabio Biondi, Jordi Savall, Alan Curtis, Andrea Marcon, George Petrou, Maxim Emelyanychev and Ivor Bolton. He performs regularly at many of the major international concert venues and festivals including the Salzburg Festival, the Festival d'Aix-en-Provence, Innsbruck Festival of Early Music and the Halle, Gottingen and Dresdner Musikfestspiele.

He has a particularly close association with the Spanish group Vespres d'Arnadi and Dani Espasa and they most recently released an album titled 'inVISIBILI' spotlighting forgotten Baroque works. His extensive discography under major labels such as Virgin Classics/EMI and Decca includes recordings of Handel's operas *Faramando*, *Arminio*, *Ottone*, the multi-award-winning recording of *Alessandro*, and the title role in **Tamerlano**. The Guardian described his solo disc 'Bad Guys' as ranking 'among the most intelligent and striking recital discs of recent years'. He also participated in the *Gala Night of Countertenors* team, alongside Max Emanuel Cencic, Yuriy Mynenko and Franco Fagioli, released by DECCA. In addition to his performances on the opera stage Xavier has a passion for Lied and has recently recorded Schubert *Winterreise* for the Berlin Classics label.

In addition to his very successful international career as a singer, Xavier is enjoying exploring his other creative talents developing and curating new and exciting personal projects including one man shows as well as off the stage as a director. He made his directing debut in a production of Handel's *Rinaldo*, also singing the title role for the Halle Handel Festival with Capella Cracoviensis and also directed and starred in Schoenberg's iconic piece *Pierrot Lunaire* at the Teatro del Liceu in Barcelona co-produced with the Teatro Real and the Teatro de La Abadía in Madrid. One of the other highlights of this include performances of a staged *Winterreise* staged by Rafael R. Villalobos which he recently performed to a sold out audience at La Monnaie

Other recent highlights include **Disinganno** *il Trionfo del tempo e del disinganno* for the Goettingen Handel Festival and Andora Festival and Stradella's *San Giovanni Battista* at the Fundacio Privada Castell de Peralada where he performs regularly.

He was awarded the Premio Ópera Actual in 2013, and the Premi Tendències d'el Mundo in 2014, and was nominated for best male artist in the 2019 International Opera Awards.

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